

ORNBP 2008 Newsletters

Starting in 2008, MDOT's Office of Research and National Best Practices (ORNBP) will take a new direction for both the format and content of its quarterly newsletters.

Beginning with the first issue of 2008, newsletters will expand beyond reporting on one topic to instead include several stories and features. As a starting point, each newsletter will contain items in the following three areas:

- News from the ORNBP office—managing research for better transportation in Michigan
- Recent research breakthroughs and results.
- Implementation success stories—results that make a difference.

The newsletter will contain compelling, readable stories and will include several color pictures as appropriate. Its design will be suitable for print distribution, and an online version will appear on ORNBP's new public Web site with e-mail announcements and pointers on relevant industry list servers.

Michigan's LTAP at Michigan Technological University will continue to write the newsletters, with assistance and input from consulting firm CTC & Associates. The writers will talk to MDOT project managers and ORNBP staff to learn about the most exciting and impacting RD&T activities across the state.

A summary of topics prepared by Michigan Tech appears on the following page.

ORNBP Planning for FY 2008

10/16/2007

Format

- 1) Program updates
- 2) Featured research
- 3) Implementation

Distribution

- 1) MDOT ORNBP
- 2) MDOT C & T
- 3) Bridge Newsletter
- 4) University Researchers
- 5) Legislature (Transportation Committees)

Issue 1 – January

- Overview of team building effort (Angie Nelson)
- Overview of peer exchange effort (CTC & Assoc.)
- Overview of ORNBP progress since formation in 2006 (tie in to strategic initiatives of MDOT and transportation research cycle)
- RESEARCH PROFILE: Pavement (“MI joint” as a spotlight)

Issue 2 – March

- Overview of transportation research cycle (CTC & Assoc.)
 1. Identify research needs
 2. Identify resources to meet the needs
 3. Conduct research
 4. Integrate findings (or ID future research needs)
 5. Evaluate and measure the effects of research
- Update to research manual (CTC & Assoc., ORNBP)
- RESEARCH PROFILE: Traffic & Safety, Workzone Safety

Issue 3 – June

- Status of State Planning and Research (SPR) program (how is it being used in MI?) (ORNBP)
- Status of progress toward the target that was made clear in April 2006 issue of newsletter (“Making the Most of Every Opportunity”) (ORNBP)
- RESEARCH PROFILE: Bridges & Structures

Issue 4 – September

- Recommendations based on peer exchange effort (CTC & Assoc., ORNBP)
- Future direction of research investments (ORNBP)
- RESEARCH PROFILE: (communicating with the public)

NOTES

- Research profiles will focus on the following areas: congestion, safety, infrastructure, environment, human resources, finance/economics